

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 8-11, 16, 21, 24-29, 31, 32, 35 and 36 are pending in the above-identified application.

Allowable Claims

Claims 1-4, 8-11, 14, 16, 21, 35 and 36 have been indicated as being allowed. It is noted that claim 14 was previously cancelled, such that this claim should be removed from this list.

Removal of Objection to Claims 24-32

Claims 24-32 have been objected to because of the definitions of variables "X" and "Y". Claims 22, 23, 33 and 34 have been objected to as being directed to a non-elected invention.

First, claims 24 and 25 have been amended so as to amend the definitions of variables "X" and "Y" to be consistent with the definitions in allowable claim 1. Claim 30 has been cancelled as being redundant. Also, claims 22, 23, 33 and 34 have been cancelled. Consequently, the bases for the above-noted objections have been removed such that pending claims 24-29, 31 and 32 have also been placed into allowable form.

Identification of Parent Co-Pending Application

In order to fully comply with the Duty of Disclosure, the Examiner is hereby informed of co-pending Application No. 09/091,300, which is the parent of the present application. In this regard, it is apparent that this file has become "lost" within the USPTO, since the electronic records on "PAIR" system do not appear to be in order.

It is submitted for the reasons above that the present claims define patentable subject matter such that this application should now be placed in condition for allowance.

If any questions arise in the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, Andrew D. Meikle (Reg. No. 32,868), in the Washington Metropolitan Area at the phone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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